

**Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and
Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays
Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC)**

Thursday, November 17th, 2011 at 10:00 am
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, River Annex
905 Nolan
Seguin, TX 78155

MINUTES

Call to Order

Chair Suzanne Scott called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Discussion and Agreement on Agenda

The agenda was approved with a slight revision.

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Rulemaking Process
and schedule**

Kathy Alexander, TCEQ, discussed the process for development by rule of environmental flow standards. She noted that the TCEQ was accepting informal comments and had held an informal rule stakeholder meeting to allow for comments to be submitted to TCEQ prior to the start of the rulemaking process. As the comments accepted were informal the TCEQ will not formally respond to these. After this informal comment period TCEQ staff will begin developing the proposed rules. She discussed the schedule for development noting the following tentative dates:

February 22, 2012: Rule proposal agenda

March 9, 2012: Formal comment period opens

April 3, 2012: Rule public hearing

July 25, 2012: Adoption agenda

Mrs. Alexander stated that there will be several opportunities to comment on the proposed rules. All comments received, recommendations of the BBEST and BBASC, as well as the strategies identified by the BBASC will be considered in the rule development. In TCEQ's balancing process there is a statutory responsibility to look at competing needs. The TCEQ will also evaluate the impact of recommendations on remaining unappropriated water as identified by the TCEQ's Water Availability Models (WAM).

**Review and Discussion of Work Plan for Adaptive Management and
Prioritization of Work Plan Elements and Creation of a Work Plan Work
Group**

- Instream Flows—Rivers, Streams, Tributaries and Riparian Zones

Steve Raabe, SARA, informed the group that, per request of the BBASC, SAC member Ed Oborny had reviewed the instream components of work plan items identified by the BBASC in previous meetings. Mr. Raabe gave an overview of this review, noting four sections including hydrology, water quality, biology, and geomorphology. Each of these categories was evaluated as either a study that will fill a data gap to understand an unknown or monitoring to assess whether the BBASC recommendation and strategies are effective. He noted that the strategies identified still needed to be prioritized by the BBASC. Members reviewed the draft scopes of work for each strategy discussing project overlap, cost/funding, and prioritization. The members agreed to form a work group to address these issues and provide their recommendations to the full BBASC. Members Mike Mecke, Suzanne Scott, Walter Womack, Mike Peters, Jim Murphy, Jerry James, Jennifer Ellis, Dianne Wassenich, BBEST member Gregg Eckhardt, and TPWD staff volunteered to serve on this work group.

- Bays and Estuaries

At the October 11, 2011 BBASC meeting member Ken Dunton agreed to review the bay and estuary components of work plan items identified by the BBASC in previous meetings. He summarized his review, noting his suggestion to combine and modify some of the preliminary scopes of work. He also discussed additional projects and scopes that he was involved with, including a study to address the effect of climate change on freshwater inflows. The members discussed these preliminary scopes of work and agreed to form a work group to evaluate and provide recommendations to the full BBASC. Members Ken Dunton, Jennifer Ellis, Tyson Broad, Dianne Wassenich, Everett Johnson, Jack Campbell, James Dodson, BBEST members Debbie Magin and Norman Johns, and Steve Raabe, SARA, volunteered to serve on this work group.

Approval of Minutes from July 18th and 19th, 2011, July 28th, 2011, August 2nd and 3rd, 2011, August 16th, 2011 and August 29th, 2011

Members discussed the draft minutes and member comments from the July 18 & 19, 2011 through August 29, 2011 BBASC meetings. Member Jim Murphy moved that the BBASC accept the minutes as drafted with the comments provided during the review period attached as written. Member Tyson Broad revised the proposal to specify that the draft minutes and highlighted comments as considered at the November 17, 2011 BBASC meeting are a reflection of the official record and to include a disclaimer stating that review of these minutes occurred after submission of the final BBASC report on September 1, 2011. The BBASC unanimously approved this motion.

Review BBASC Meeting Rules and Discuss Potential Revisions, if Needed, To Guide the Work Plan Development Phase of the BBASC's Responsibilities

Chair Suzanne Scott opened discussion to determine if the BBASC meeting rules, approved March 1, 2010, should be modified as the BBASC begins the work plan phase. The members agreed to review the meeting rules and provide comments to Cory Horan, TCEQ, prior to the next meeting for consideration and potential adoption.

**Review and Discussion of Proposed 2012 Meeting Dates and Discuss
December Meeting Date, Time and Location**

The bay and estuary and instream work plan subgroups will meet as needed. The next BBASC meeting is set for February 16, 2012. Subsequent meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursdays of each month.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Adjourn